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APPLICATION NUMBER: *60/534,619*
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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

INVENTOR(S)		
Given Name (first and middle [if any])	Family Name or Surname	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)
David A. Kelvin H.	Nowicky Wildman	Fairport, NY Honeoye Falls, NY

☐ *Additional inventors are being named on th____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto*

TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)

AN ENCLOSURE HAVING AN ESCUTCHEON PLATE WITH EXTENDED SIDE FLANGES, FASTENING CLIPS AND AN OPPOSING HANDLE.

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ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS *(check all that apply)*

☒ Specification *Number of Pages* 15 ☐ CD(s), Number

☒ Drawing(s) *Number of Sheets* 20 ☐ Other (specify)

☐ Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

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Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE

TYPED or PRINTED NAME **Dennis B. Danella, Esq.**

TELEPHONE **(585) 262-3640**

Date **01/07/2004**

REGISTRATION NO. *(if appropriate)* **46,653**

Docket Number: **89843.076303**

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Serial No. TBA	Filing Date Herewith	Examiner TBA	Group Art Unit TBA

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Invention: **AN ENCLOSURE HAVING AN ESCUTCHEON PLATE WITH EXTENDED SIDE FLANGES, FASTENING CLIPS AND AN OPPOSING HANDLE**

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AN ENCLOSURE HAVING AN ESCUTCHEON PLATE WITH EXTENDED SIDE FLANGES, FASTENING CLIPS AND AN OPPOSING HANDLE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Not applicable.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0002] Not applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The present invention relates to an enclosure having an escutcheon plate, fastening clips and an opposing handle. More particularly, the present invention includes an escutcheon plate with extended side flanges that is fastened to a front panel of a stackable vertical file cabinet using a pair of fastening clips. Additionally, the escutcheon plate has a handle formed therein that may be used in conjunction with a handle formed in the opposite side of the file cabinet to allow a person to move the file cabinet to a desired location.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[0004] The accompanying drawings form a part of the this specification and are to be read in conjunction therewith, wherein like reference numerals are employed to indicate like parts in the various views, and wherein:

[0005] FIG. 1 is a front perspective view of a pair of stackable vertical filing cabinets, each having a file housing and an escutcheon plate coupled with a front panel of a drawer using a pair of fastening clips according to the present invention;

[0006] FIG. 2 is an exploded view of the cabinet housing showing a cover shell, a rear shell, and a base that surround a blow-molded internal housing;

[0007] FIG. 3 is an enlarged partial top perspective view of the base showing a plurality of slots formed therein;

[0008] FIG. 4 is an enlarged front perspective view of the blow-molded internal housing shown in FIG. 2;

[0009] FIG. 5 is a side perspective view showing the escutcheon plate coupled with the front panel of the drawer;

[0010] FIG. 6 is a top perspective view of the front panel with the escutcheon plate removed;

[0011] FIG. 7 is an enlarged front view of the escutcheon plate mounted to the front panel of the drawer;

[0012] FIG. 8 is a rear view of the escutcheon plate shown in FIG. 7 showing the fastening clips positioned between the escutcheon plate and the front panel;

[0013] FIG. 9 is an enlarged view of the escutcheon plate illustrating its extended side flanges, wherein the fastening clips are positioned between the side flanges and the front panel;

[0014] FIG. 10 is a side view of the escutcheon plate showing a slot formed in an upper portion of the side flange;

[0015] FIG. 11 is a front view of the fastening clip shown in FIG. 9;

[0016] FIG. 12 is an enlarged rear view of the fastening clip shown in FIG. 11;

[0017] FIG. 13 is an enlarged perspective view of the fastening clip shown in FIG. 11;

[0018] FIG. 14 is a front perspective view of a locking assembly that is used to secure the stackable vertical filing cabinets shown in FIG. 1;

[0019] FIG. 15 is a rear perspective view of the locking assembly shown in FIG. 14;

[0020] FIG. 16 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 16-16 in FIG. 1;

[0021] FIG. 17 is a front view of a handle recess insert positioned in the rear shell;

[0022] FIG. 18 is a side view of the handle recess insert shown in FIG. 17;

[0023] FIG. 19 is a rear view of the handle recess shown in FIG. 17; and

[0024] FIG. 20 is a top view of the handle recess insert shown in FIG. 17.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0025] Referring now to the drawings in detail, and initially to FIG. 1, reference numeral 10 generally designates a fire-resistant stackable vertical filing unit constructed in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention. In general, the filing unit 10 may include an upper filing cabinet 12 positioned on top of a lower filing cabinet 14. The upper and lower file cabinets 12, 14 each include a base 16, a file housing 18 and a drawer 20. Drawer 20 includes a escutcheon plate 22 with a handle recess 24 formed therein that may be used in conjunction with a handle recess insert 26 formed in the opposite side of file housing 18 (FIG. 2) to allow a user to pick-up and move filing cabinets 12, 14 to a desired location. Moreover, as best seen in FIG. 8, escutcheon plate 22 includes a pair of side flanges 28 and is securely mounted to drawer 20 through the use of a pair of fastening clips 30. It will also be understood and appreciated that filing unit 10 may also include a single filing cabinet or more than two filing cabinets stacked on top of one other.

[0026] With reference to FIG. 2, file housing 18 includes an external cover shell 32, a rear shell 34, and an internal casing 36, all of which rest on base 16. External cover

shell 32 includes a top section 38 that covers the top portion of internal casing 36, and a pair of side walls 40, 42 that cover the right and left sides of internal casing 36, respectively. Each of the side walls 40, 42 have a plurality tabs 44 that extend from their lower edge, wherein each of tabs 44 have a mounting hole defined therein. Rear shell 34 is adapted to cover the rear portion of casing 36 and includes a plurality of tabs 46 that extend from its lower edge that may be used to fasten rear wall 34 to base 16. Rear shell 34 may also include an opening 47 so that handle recess insert 26 may be placed therein.

[0027] As best seen in FIGS. 17-20, handle recess insert 26 is generally rectangular in shape and has a depression formed therein that is of a depth that will allow a user to grip the file cabinet 12, 14 so that it can be moved to a desired location. In particular, handle recess insert 26 may include a back wall 48, a side wall 50 that extends from the circumferential edge of back wall 48, and an upper edge 52 that is adapted to rest on the outer surface of rear shell 34 to secure insert 26 in position on rear shell 34. It will be understood that handle recess insert 26 may be any number of shapes including, but not limited to, oval, square, triangular, circular. Moreover, it is also within the scope of the present invention to integrally form handle recess in rear shell 34.

[0028] Base 16 is positioned beneath internal casing 36 and is adapted to be placed in contact with a support surface. In the alternative, base 16 may also be used to interconnect filing cabinet 12 with a top portion of lower filing cabinet 14 as best seen in FIG. 1. With additional reference to FIG. 3, base 16 also includes a series of slots 54 having a fitted groove 56 that are adapted to receive tabs 44, 46 that extend from side walls 40, 42 and rear shell 34, respectively. A plurality of fastening holes 58 are also

formed in base 16. External cover shell 32, rear shell 34 and base 16 may be formed of sheet metal or any other desirable material.

[0029] As best seen in FIGS. 2 and 4, internal casing 36 may be blow-molded and filled with a non-flammable, thermal insulating material that solidifies in the mold provided by internal casing 36. In particular, casing 36 includes a top wall 60, a pair of side walls 62, 64, a bottom wall 66 and a rear wall 68. A pair of drawer tracks 70 are integrally formed in side walls 62, 64, and are adapted to allow drawer 20 to be slidably attached to casing 36.

[0030] In order to assemble housing 18, the casing 36 is placed in position on top of base 16 as best seen in FIG. 2. With additional reference to FIG. 3, tabs 44 on cover shell 32 are then inserted into their corresponding slots 54 in base 16 and slid within fitted groove 56 until each of the holes on tabs 44 are aligned with fastening holes 58. A screw or other type of fastener is then inserted into the holes to couple base 16 with cover shell 32. Rear shell 34 is mounted to base 16 in a similar fashion by inserting tabs 46 into corresponding slots 59 and coupling the rear shell 34 with base 16 using fasteners. With additional reference to FIGS. 18 and 20, handle recess insert 26 is then mounted within the opening formed in rear shell 34. Specifically, the back wall 48 and side wall 50 of handle recess insert 26 are inserted through the opening so that upper edge 52 rests on the outer surface of rear shell 34. The recess insert 26 is is slightly larger than the opening formed in the rear shell 34 to provide a secure connection between recess insert 26 and rear shell 34. As stated above, it is also within the scope of the present invention to integrally form recess insert 26 with rear shell 34.

[0031] As best seen in FIG. 5, the drawer 20 includes a front panel 72, escutcheon plate 22, a locking assembly 74, and a track unit 76 that operates to slidably couple drawer 20 with casing 36. Specifically, track unit 76 includes a frame 78 having a pair of opposed side members 80 and a back member 82. The forward edge of each side member 80 is coupled with front panel 72. Further, a pair of drawer tracks 84 are attached to the outer surface of side members 80 on opposite sides of drawer 20 and serve as a guide for a slide member 86. Each slide member 86 may be generally U-shaped and has an inner channel 88 that is adapted to be positioned so that it can slide along the longitudinal axis of drawer track 84. Further, slide members 86 are adapted to be slidably engaged with the drawer tracks 70 that are formed in blow-molded casing 36.

[0032] As best seen in FIG. 5, the front portion of the drawer 20 includes front panel 72, escutcheon plate 22, and locking assembly 74. In particular, with additional reference to FIG. 6, front panel 72 may include an escutcheon plate opening 90, a face plate recess 92, a ledge 94, a latching slot 96, and a pair of attaching tabs 98. Attaching tabs 98 are used to couple front panel 72 with the forward edge of side members 80.

[0033] As best seen in FIGS. 7, 8 and 16, escutcheon plate 22 is adapted to be positioned within escutcheon plate opening 90 formed in front panel 72. Escutcheon plate 22 includes an aperture 100 formed in a body 101 of the plate 22 which provides a mounting location for locking assembly 74. Further, handle recess 24 may be positioned below aperture 100 and on the opposite side of the filing cabinet from where handle recess insert 26 is located. Handle recess 24 may be sized to allow a user to hold onto escutcheon plate 22 so that filing cabinets 12, 14 can be moved to a desired location.

[0034] As best seen in FIG. 8, escutcheon plate 22 also includes side flange 28 that is adapted to be positioned adjacent to a back surface 102 of front panel 72. In general, side flange 28 operates to reduce the chance that escutcheon plate 22 will become dislodged from front panel 72 when a user grabs the escutcheon plate 22 to move the file cabinet 12, 14. In order to reduce the chance that escutcheon plate 22 will be removed from front panel 72, side flange 28 generally extends from body 101 and includes a lower portion 104 and an upper portion 106 that extend outwardly from a pair of side edges 108, 110 of escutcheon plate 22. In accordance with the present invention, as best seen in FIG. 9, lower portion 104 extends outwardly at a first distance D_1 from side edges 108, 110, and upper portion 106 extends outwardly at a second distance 114 D_2 from side edges 108, 110 of escutcheon plate 22. In particular, second distance 114 is greater than first distance 112 in order to increase the amount of contact area between side flange 28 and back surface 102 of front panel 72, which in turn makes it more difficult to pull escutcheon plate 22 from front panel 72 when a user is moving filing cabinet 12, 14. It will be understood and appreciated that upper portion 106 may extend approximately twice the distance from the side edges 108, 110 of escutcheon plate 22 compared to lower portion 104. Further, it will also be understood that D_2 may be larger than D_1.

[0035] As best seen in FIG. 10, upper portion 106 may also include an extension wall 116 and an offset wall 118 that define a slot 119 for receiving fastening clip 30 (FIG. 11). Extension wall 116 is used to position offset wall 118 away from back surface 102 of front panel 72 at a distance slightly greater than the thickness of fastening clip 30 so that fastening clip 30 may slide between upper portion 106 and back surface 102 of front

panel 72 and be securely positioned therebetween. Fastening clip 30 is generally slid into the slot 119 formed by extension wall 116 and offset wall 118 until fastening clip 30 comes into contact with, or is adjacent to, a side wall 120 of escutcheon plate 22. Furthermore, extension wall 116 also has a snap opening 122 formed therein that allows fastening clip 30 to be secured within slot 119.

[0036] As best seen in FIGS. 11-13, fastening clip 30 includes front and rear surfaces 124, 126 and is adapted to fit into slot 119 formed in upper portion 106 of side flange 28. Fastening clip 30 includes a snap arm 128 that extends within an opening 130 and is capable of flexing about a connecting point where arm 128 joins the main body of fastening clip 30. With specific reference to FIGS. 9 and 13, snap arm 120 has a protrusion 132 that extends from the distal end of snap arm 128 and is adapted to fit within snap opening 122.

[0037] As best seen in FIG. 1, locking assembly 74 may be mounted within escutcheon plate 22 to allow a user to selectively lock and unlock filing cabinet 10. As best seen in FIGS. 14-16, lock assembly 74 may be formed of a die cast material where a cam 136 may be formed of steel. Cam 136 may also include a locking leg 138, an attaching leg 140 and a flat portion 142. Additionally, the attaching leg 140 has a slot (not shown) for allowing the cam 136 to be attached to the internal bezel (not shown) by a fastener.

[0038] Lock assembly 74 is inserted through the front of escutcheon plate 22 in the drawer face. Specifically, as best seen in FIG. 8, 14 and 15, an upper tab 144 and a lower tab 146 of the lock assembly 74 are aligned with an upper slot 148 and a lower slot 150 on the escutcheon plate 22 to assure proper positioning in escutcheon plate 22. Once

lock assembly 74 is properly aligned, a pair of side tabs 152 on escutcheon plate 22 are snapped into place with a pair of side recesses 154, thereby securing locking assembly 74 to escutcheon plate 22.

[0039] In order to attach escutcheon plate 22 to front panel 72, the top edge of escutcheon plate 22 is inserted through face plate recess 92 formed in escutcheon plate opening 90 from the back side of front panel 72. The lower and upper portions 104, 106 of side flanges 28 are then placed against back surface 102 of front panel 72 as best seen in FIG. 9, and a lower edge 156 of escutcheon plate 22 is in contact with the outer surface of front panel 72 as best seen in FIG. 7. At this point, fastening clips 30 are inserted into slots 119 so that front surface 124 of fastening clip 30 is in contact with back surface 102 of drawer 20, upper portion 106 of side flange 28 is in contact with rear surface 126 of fastening clip 30, lower portion 104 is in contact with back surface 102 of drawer 20, and lower edge 156 of escutcheon plate 22 is in contact with the outer surface of front panel 72. As fastening clips 30 are inserted into each slot 119, the arm 128 bends slightly as protrusion 132 slides along the inside surface of offset wall 118. Once in the proper position, snap arm 128 operates to snap protrusion 126 within opening 122, which in turn holds clip 30 in position within slot 119. To remove clip 30 from slot 119, a downward force is applied to protrusion 132 and clip 30 is removed from slot 119. Also, a ridge 134 formed along the top edge of clip 30 may be used to remove clip 30 from slot 119.

[0040] The present invention is directed to an escutcheon plate with a pair of side flanges, each of the flanges having an extended upper portion that is secured to the front panel of the filing cabinet using a fastening clip. The extended upper portion of the side flanges provides increased surface area between the escutcheon plate and front panel,

which in turn reduces the amount of stress on each of the side flanges when the escutcheon plate is pulled away from the front panel of the drawer. Thus, the chance that the escutcheon plate will become detached from the front panel is reduced. Furthermore, the present invention is also directed to the combination of the handle recess formed in the escutcheon plate and the handle recess insert formed in the rear shell. Having handles located on opposite sides of the filing cabinet make it easier to pick up and move the filing cabinet to a desired location without having to side the filing cabinet along the ground or trying to lift the filing cabinet from underneath the base of the safe.

[0041] While particular embodiments of the invention have been shown, it will be understood, of course, that the invention is not limited thereto, since modifications may be made by those skilled in the art, particularly in light of the foregoing teachings. Reasonable variation and modification are possible within the scope of the foregoing disclosure of the invention without departing from the spirit of the invention.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An escutcheon plate assembly for a fire-resistant enclosure, the enclosure having a front panel with an opening defined therein, said escutcheon plate comprising:

an escutcheon plate body;

at least one flange extending from the body, the flange having a slot defined therein; and

a fastening clip that is adapted to be positioned within the slot.

2. The escutcheon plate assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the flange includes first and second portions, wherein the first portion extends from the body at a first distance, and wherein the second portion extends from the body at a second distance.

3. The escutcheon plate assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein the first distance is greater than the second distance.

4. The escutcheon plate assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein the first distance is approximately two times greater than the second distance.

5. The escutcheon plate assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein the slot is formed in the first portion of the flange.

6. The escutcheon plate assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the fastening clip includes a snap arm positioned within an opening defined in the fastening clip, wherein the snap arm has a protrusion extending therefrom that fits within a snap opening formed in the flange.

7. The escutcheon plate assembly as recited in claim 6, wherein the fastening clip further includes a ridge formed along an edge of the clip.

8. The escutcheon plate assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the body has a handle recess formed therein.

9. The escutcheon plate assembly as recited in claim 1, further comprising a locking assembly coupled with the body.

10. The escutcheon plate assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the body includes a side edge, and wherein the flange extends from the side edge.

11. A fire-resistant enclosure comprising:

an internal housing having a front access opening and a rear wall;

a front panel for covering the front access opening of the internal housing;

an escutcheon plate assembly coupled with the front panel having a body with a handle recess defined therein;

a rear shell for covering the rear wall of the internal housing, wherein the rear shell is positioned opposite of the front panel; and

a handle recess insert coupled with the rear shell.

12. The fire-resistant enclosure as recited in claim 11, wherein the handle recess insert is integrally formed in the rear shell.

13. The fire-resistant enclosure as recited in claim 11, wherein the escutcheon plate assembly further comprises:

at least one flange extending from the body, wherein the flange has a slot defined therein; and

a fastening clip that is adapted to be positioned within the slot.

14. The fire-resistant enclosure as recited in claim 13, wherein the flange includes first and second portions, wherein the first portion extends from the body at a first distance, and wherein the second portion extends from the body at a second distance.

15. The fire-resistant enclosure as recited in claim 14, wherein the first distance is greater than the second distance.

16. The fire-resistant enclosure as recited in claim 15, wherein the first distance is approximately two times greater than the second distance.

17. The fire-resistant enclosure as recited in claim 15, wherein the slot is formed in the first portion of the flange.

18. The fire-resistant enclosure as recited in claim 17, wherein the fastening clip includes a snap arm positioned within an opening defined in the fastening clip, and wherein the snap arm has a protrusion extending therefrom that is adapted to fit within a snap opening formed in the flange.

19. The fire-resistant enclosure as recited in claim 18, wherein the fastening clip further includes a ridge formed along an edge of the clip.

20. The escutcheon plate as recited in claim 13, further comprising a locking assembly coupled with the body.

21. An escutcheon plate assembly for a fire-resistant enclosure, the enclosure having a front panel with an opening defined therein, said escutcheon plate comprising:

an escutcheon plate body having a side edge and a handle recess formed therein;

at least one flange extending from the edge of the body and having first and second portions, wherein the first portion extends from the body at a first distance, wherein the second portion extends from the body at a second distance, wherein the first distance is greater than the second distance, and wherein the first portion has a slot defined therein; and

a fastening clip that is adapted to be positioned within the slot, wherein the fastening clip includes a snap arm positioned within an opening defined in the fastening clip, and wherein the snap arm has a protrusion extending therefrom that fits within a snap opening formed in the flange.

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Invention: AN ENCLOSURE HAVING AN ESCUTCHEON PLATE WITH EXTENDED SIDE FLANGES, FASTENING CLIPS AND AN OPPOSING HANDLE

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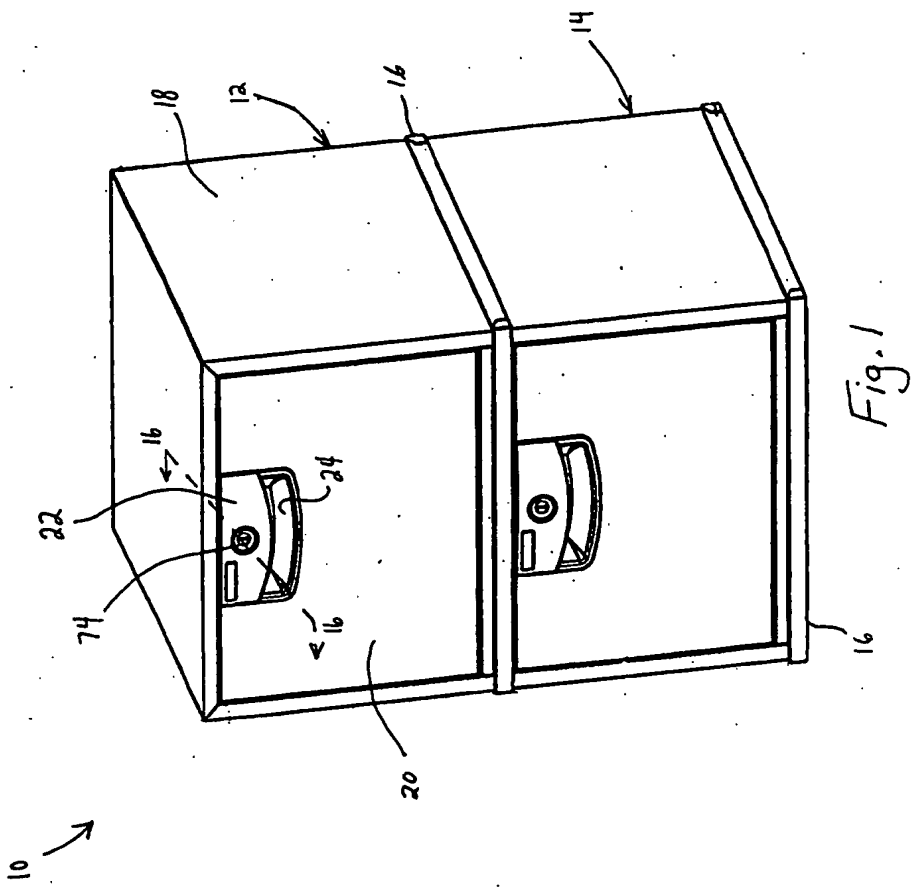

Fig. 1

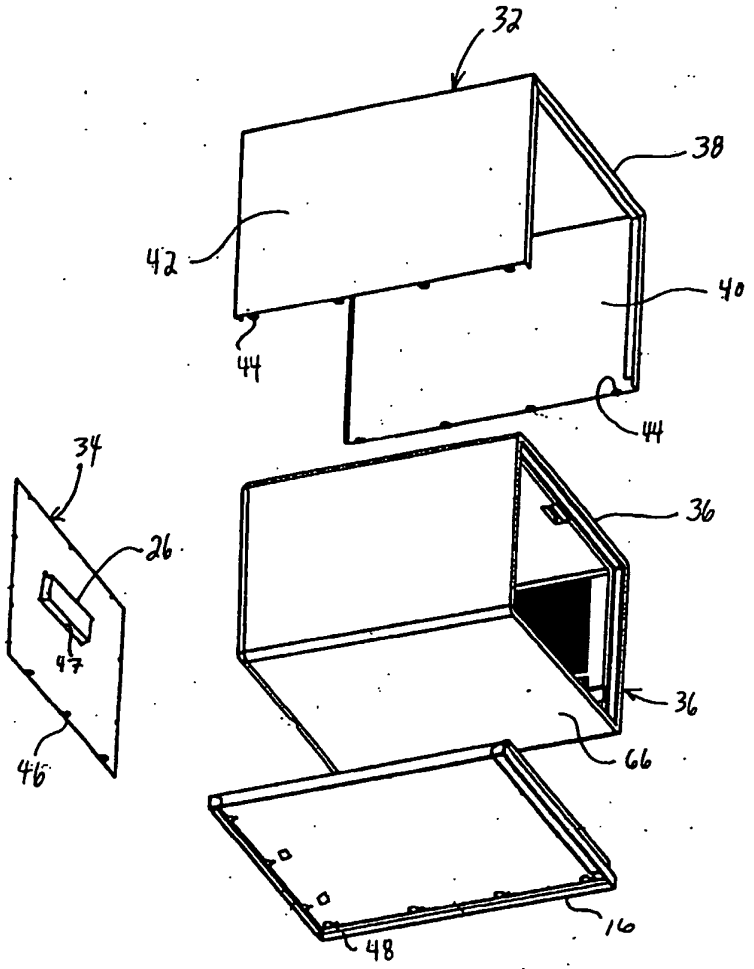

Fig. 2

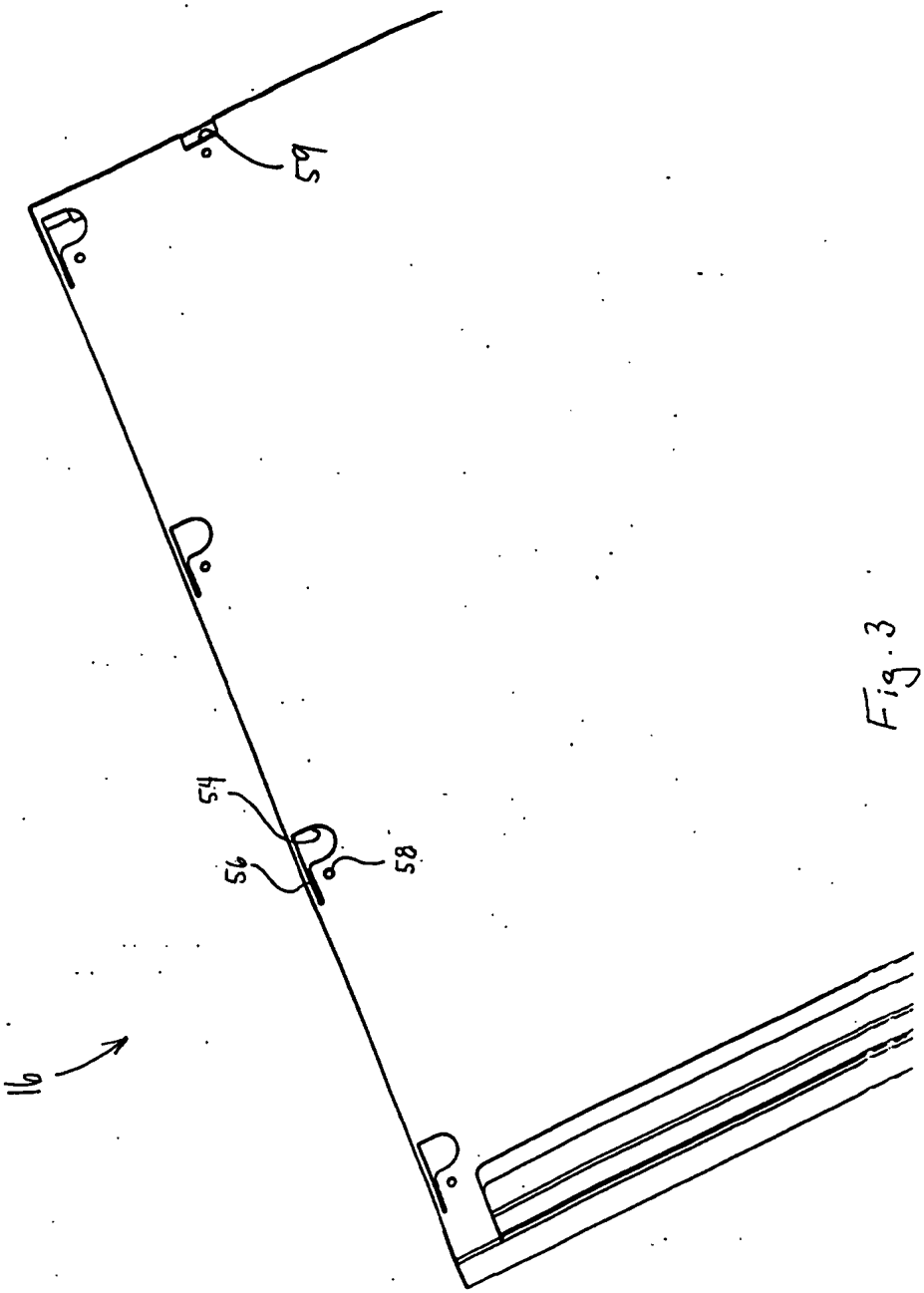

Fig. 3

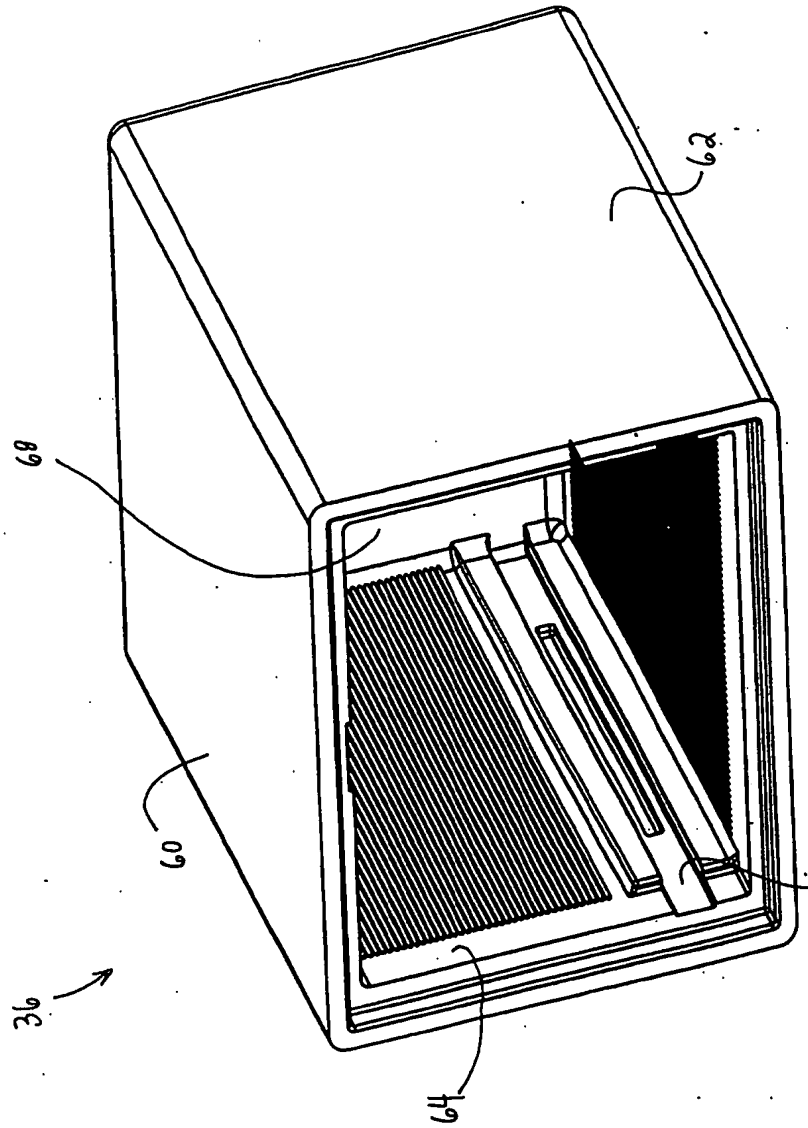

Fig. 4

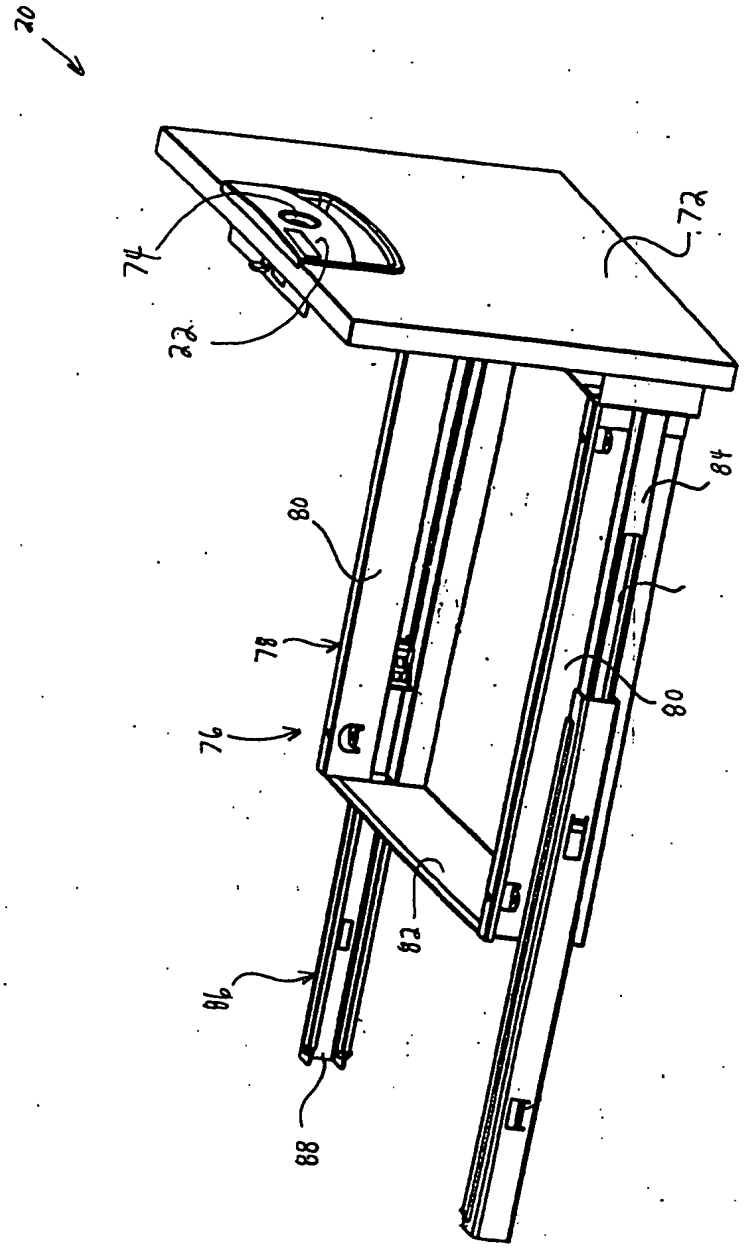

Fig. 5

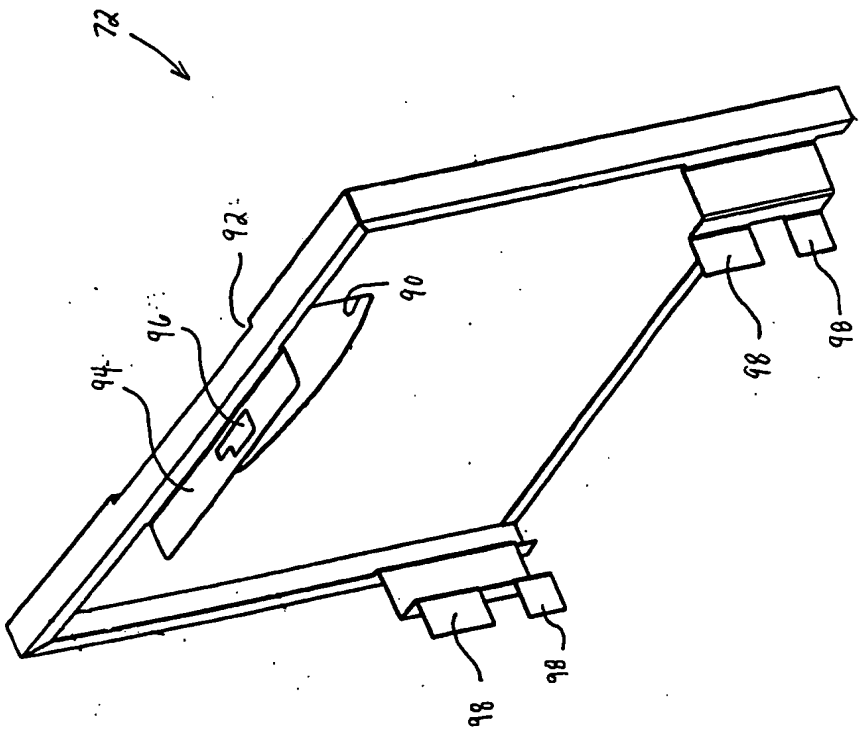

Fig. 6

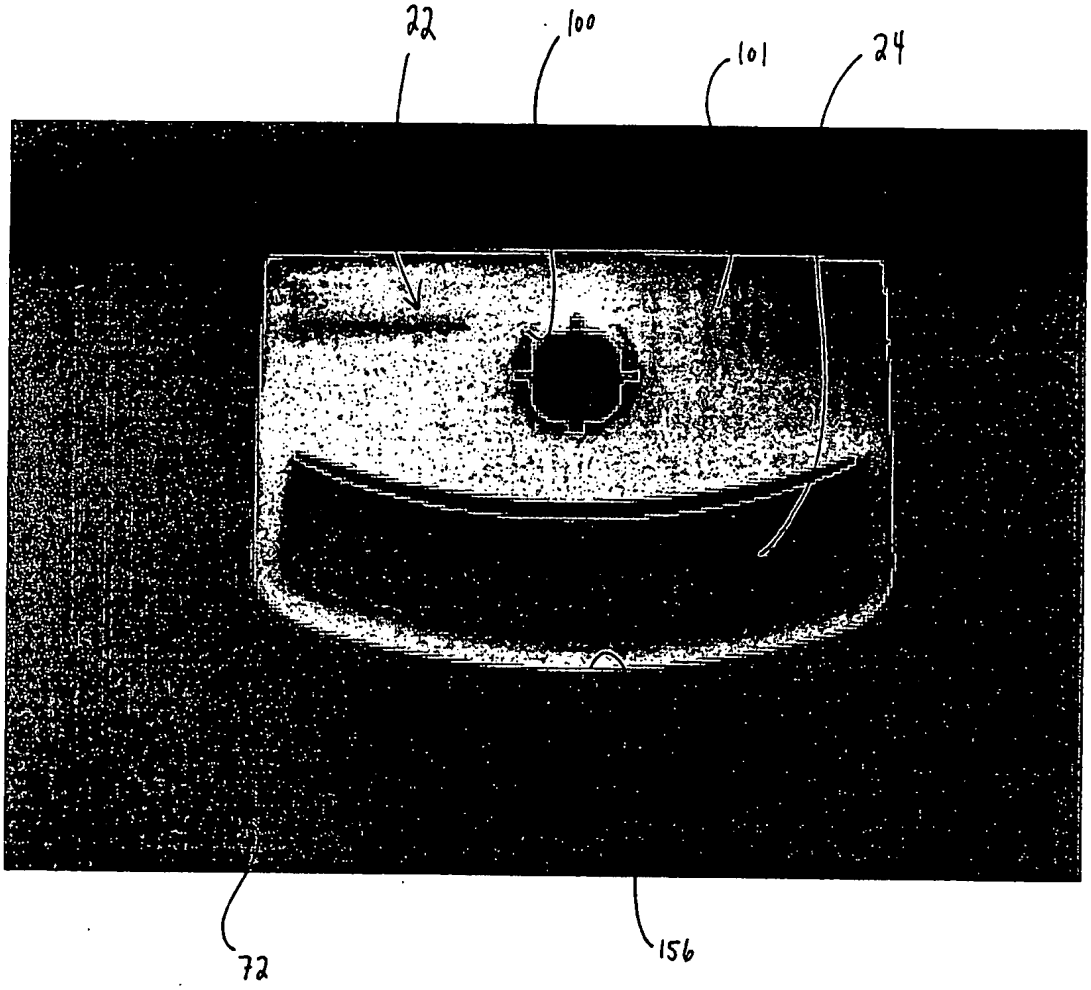

FIG. 7

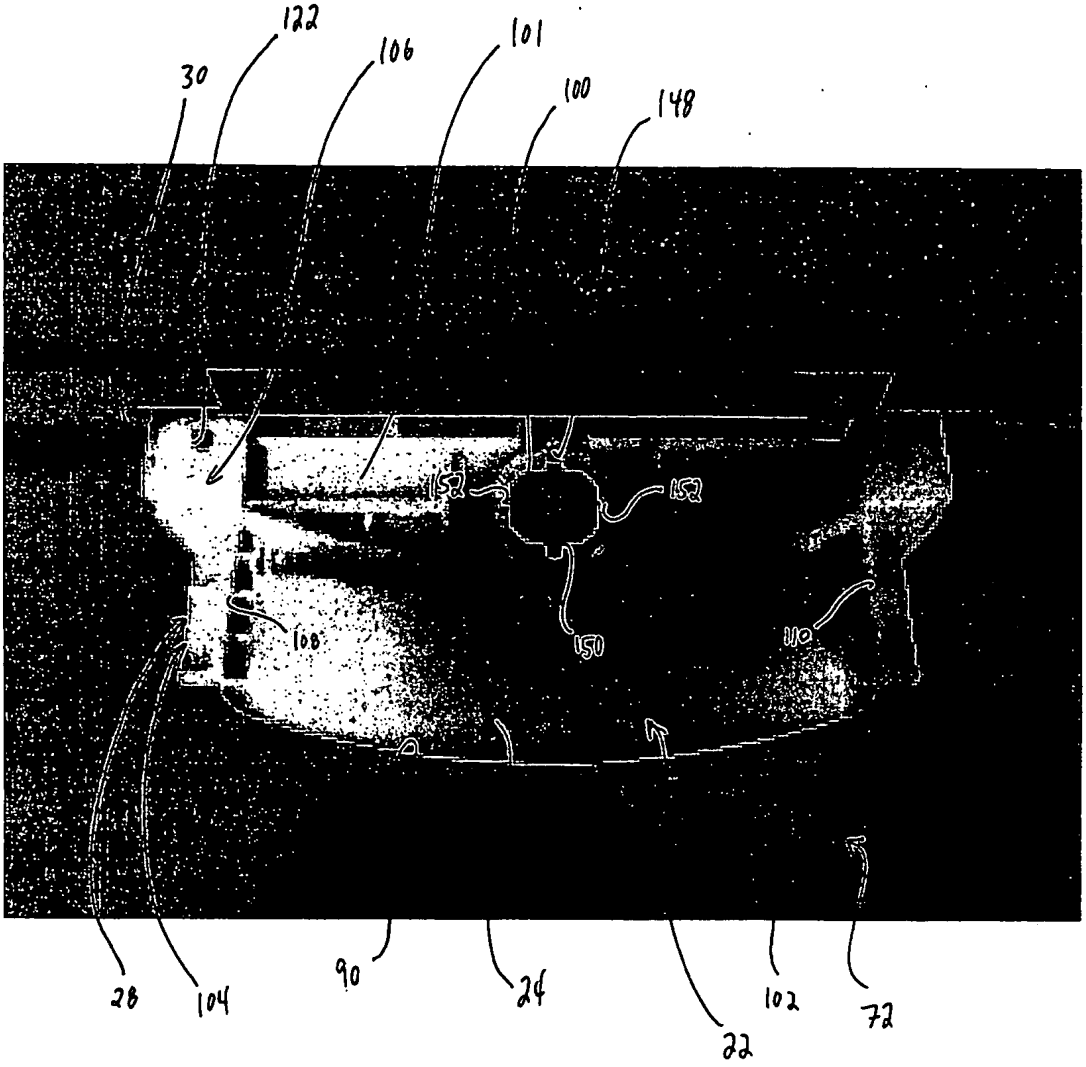

FIG. 8

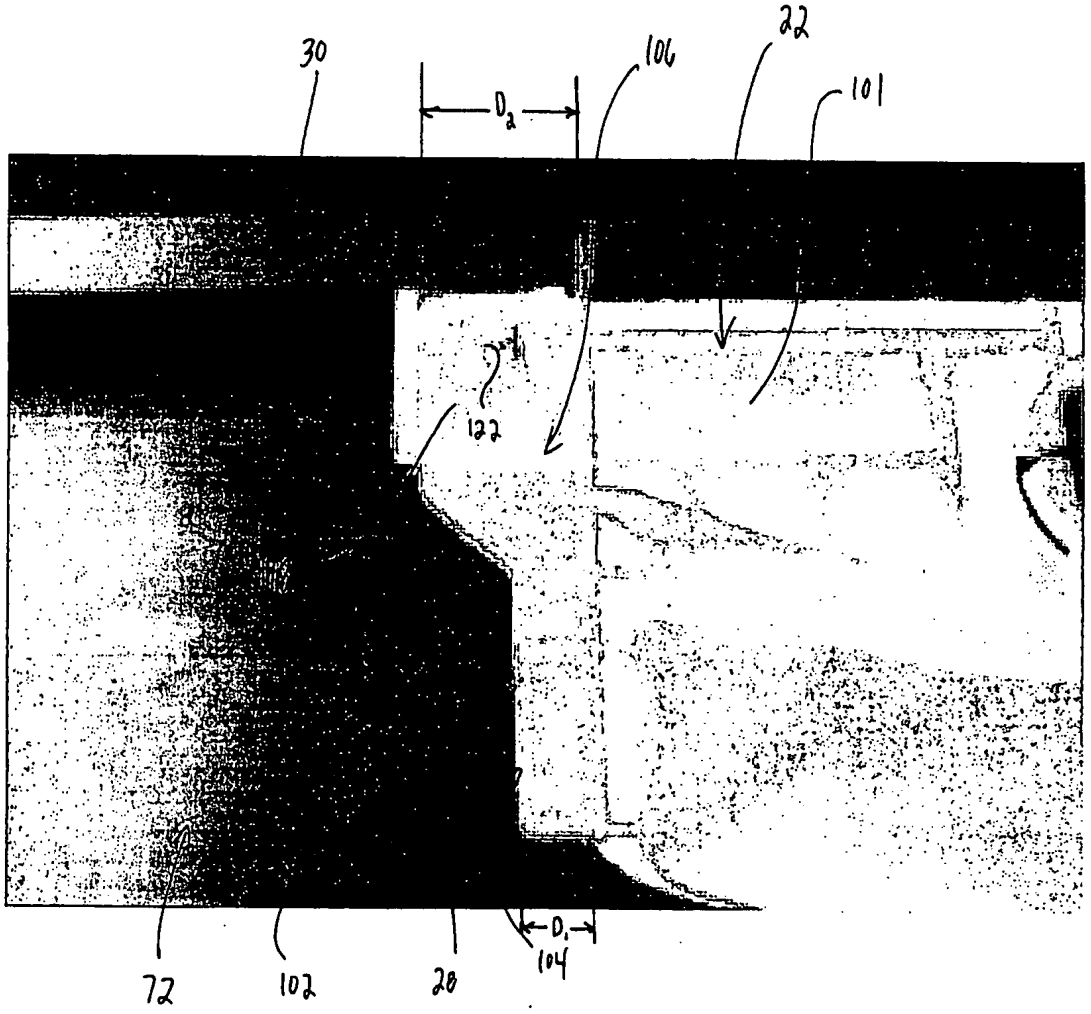

FIG. 9

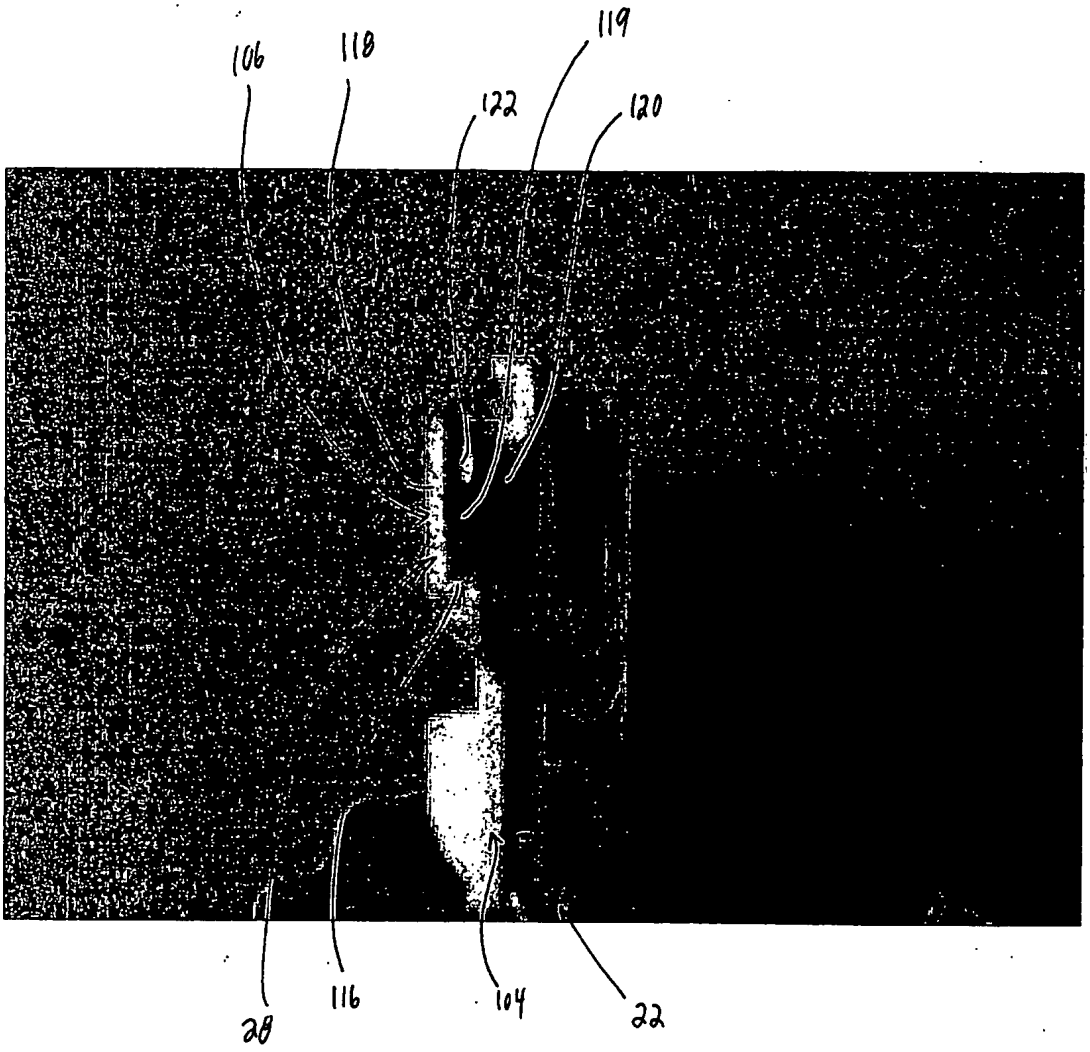

FIG. 10

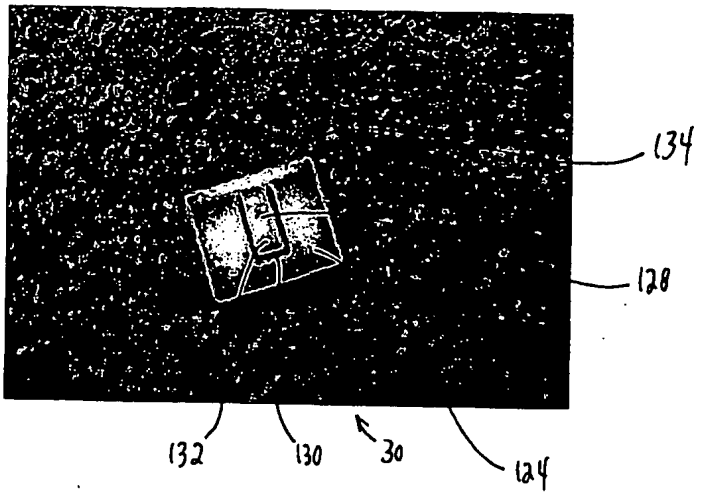

FIG. 11

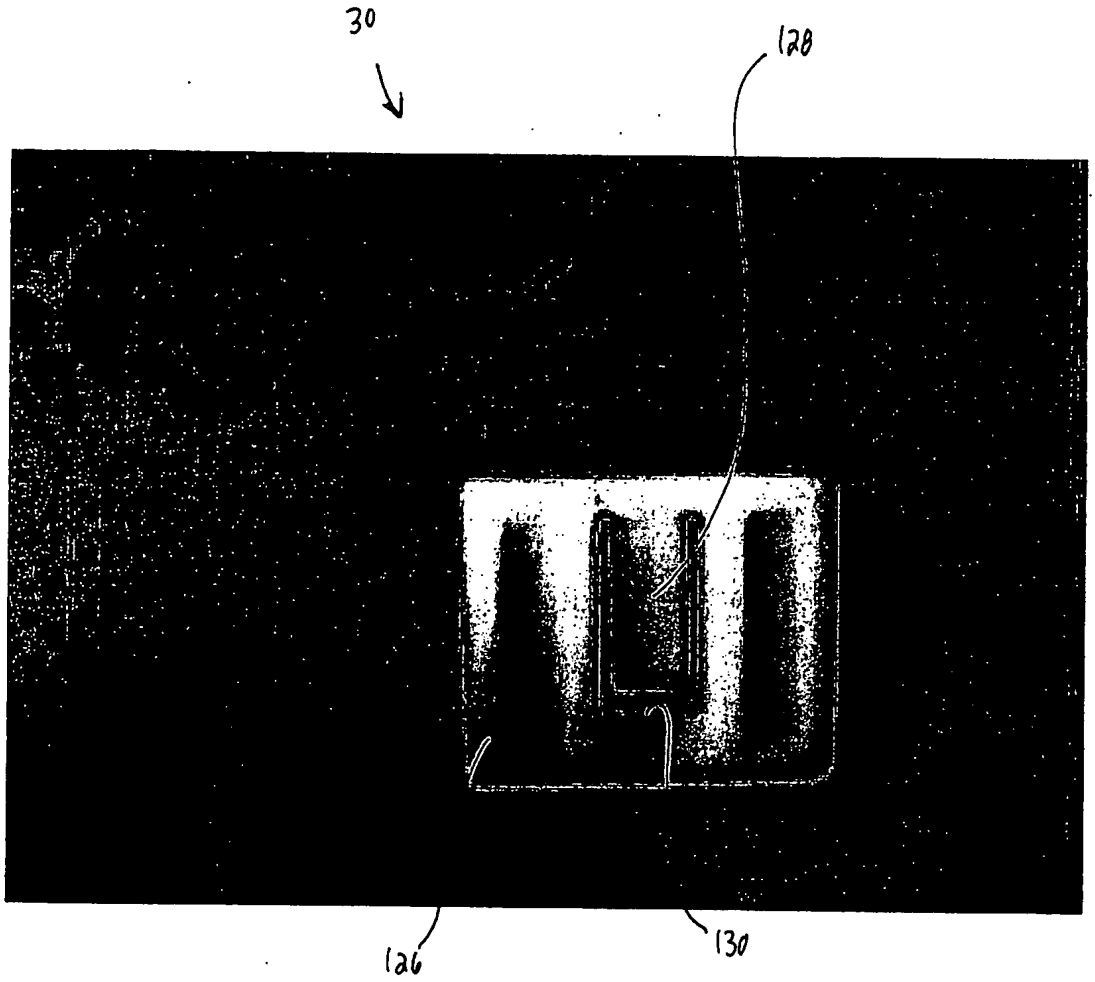

FIG. 12

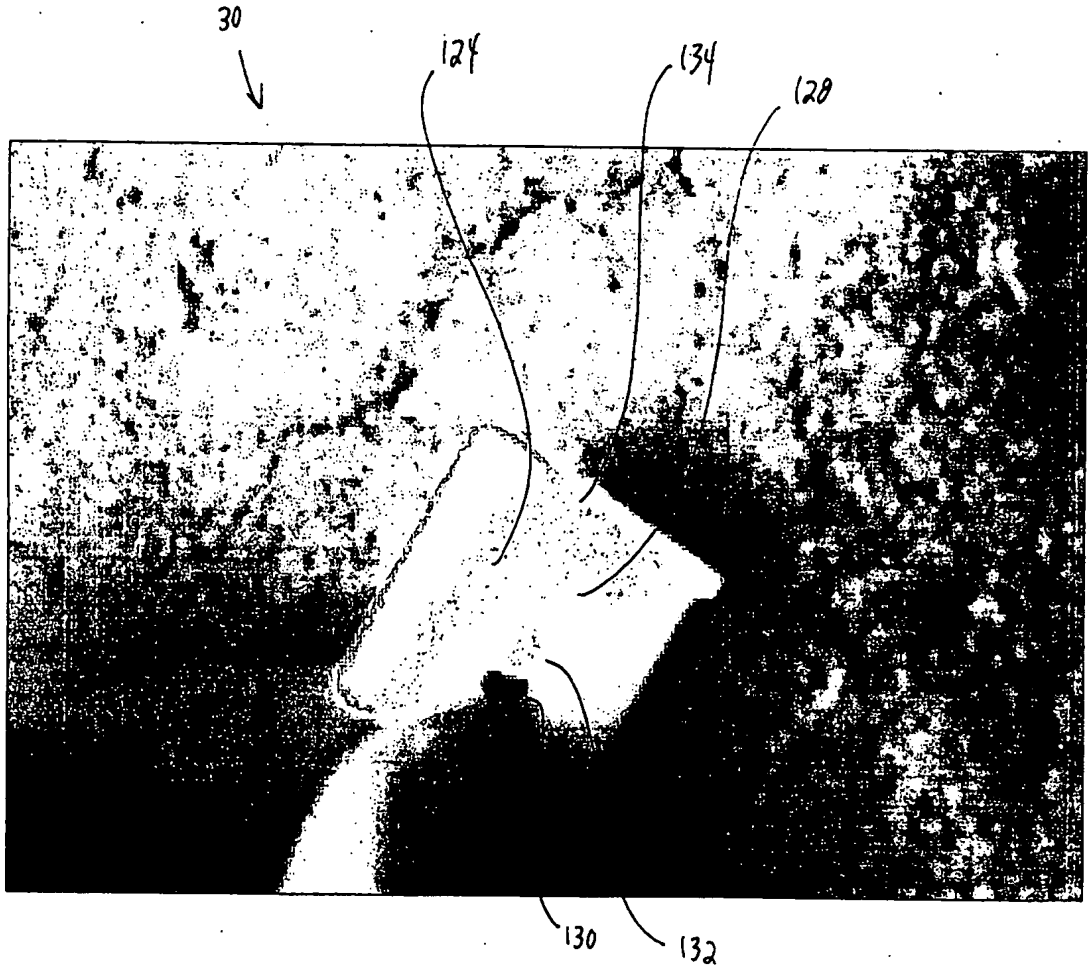

FIG. 13

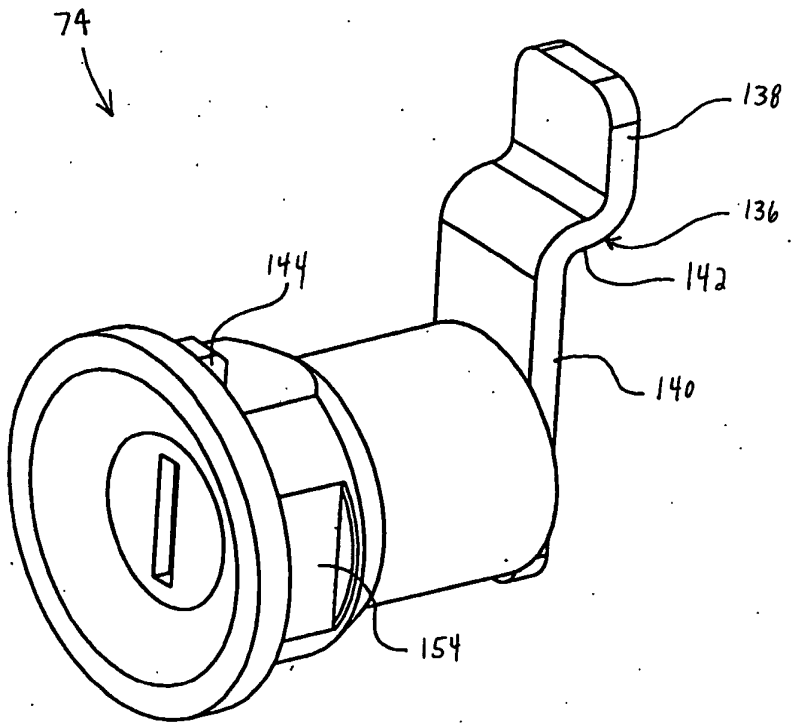

Fig. 14

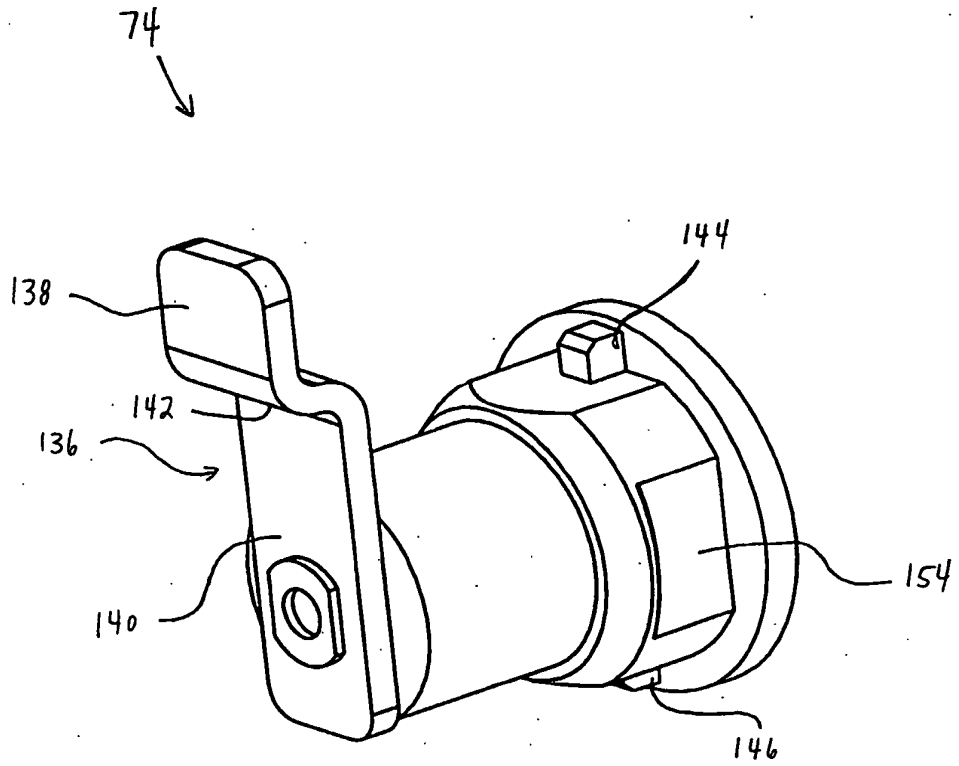

Fig. 15

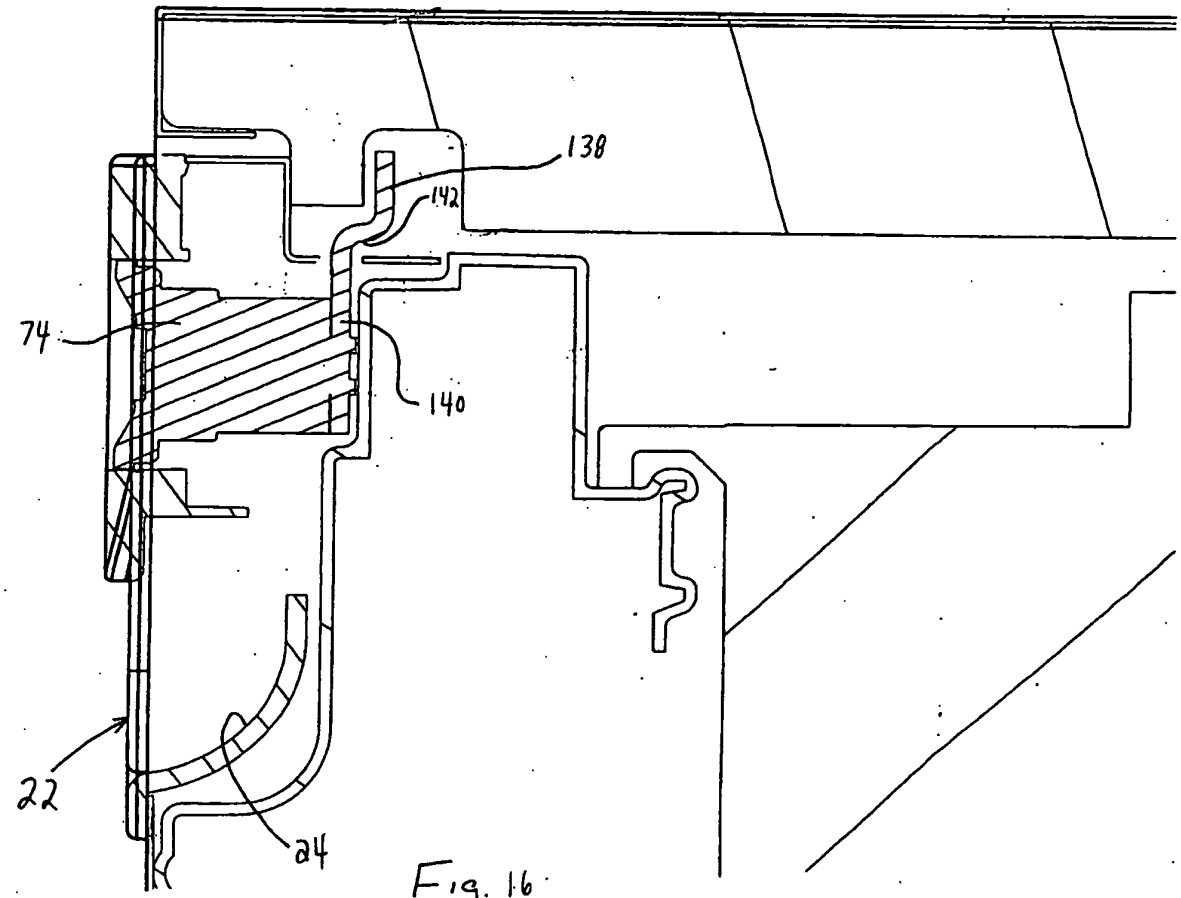

Fig. 16

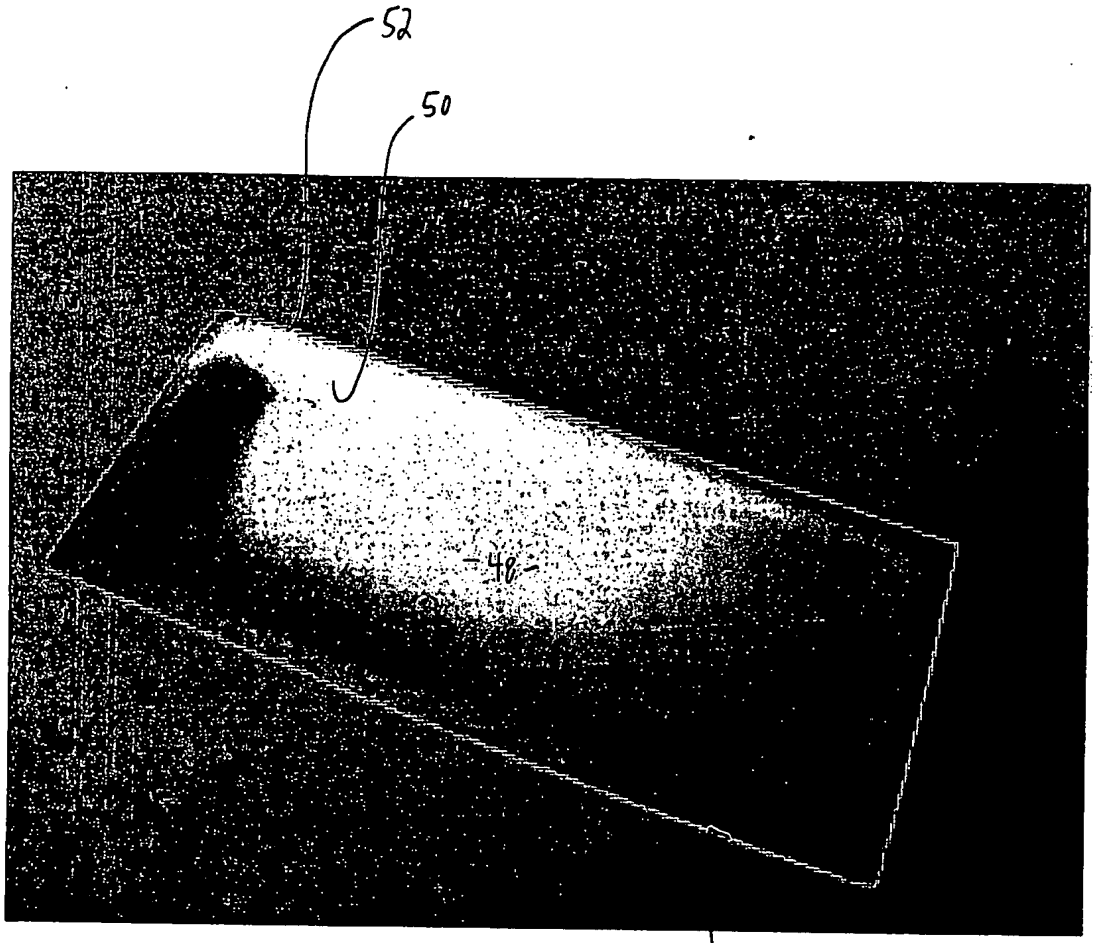

FIG. 17

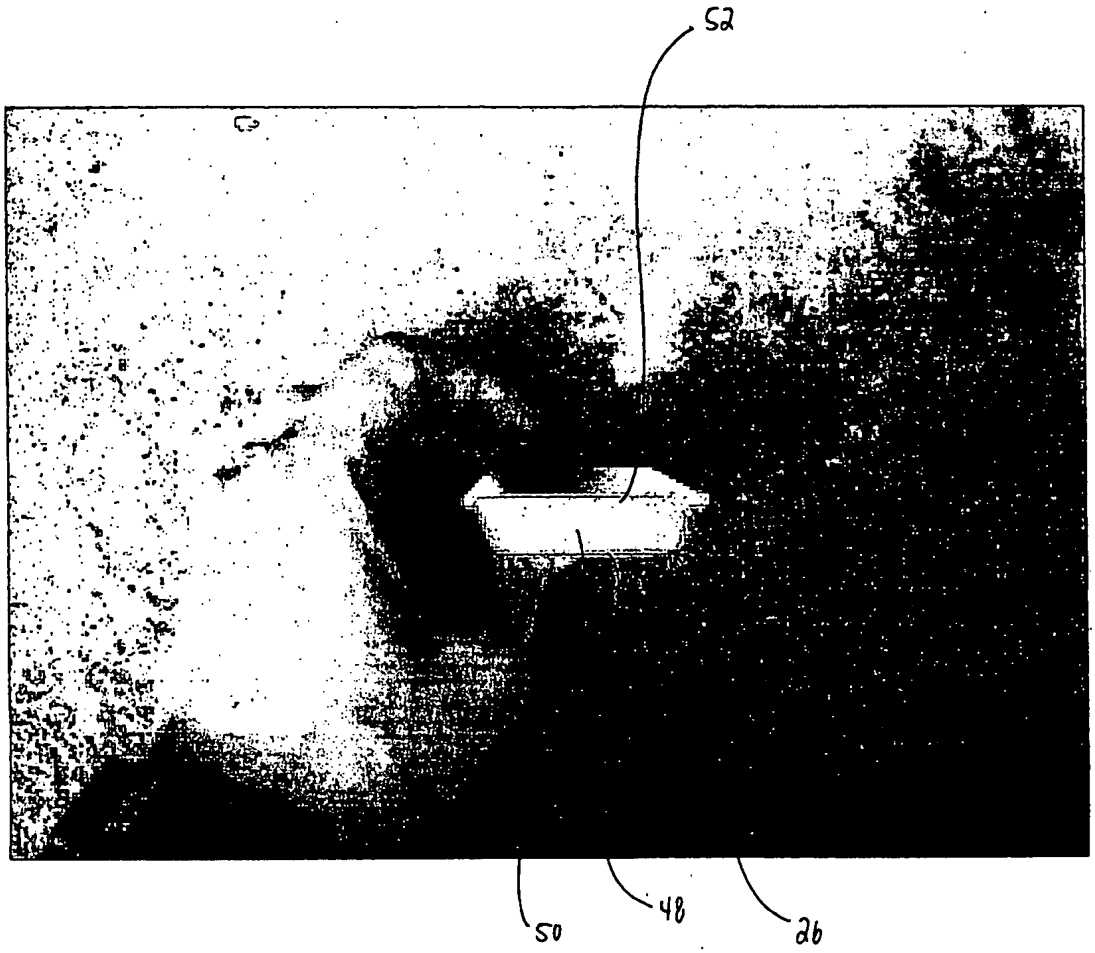

FIG. 18

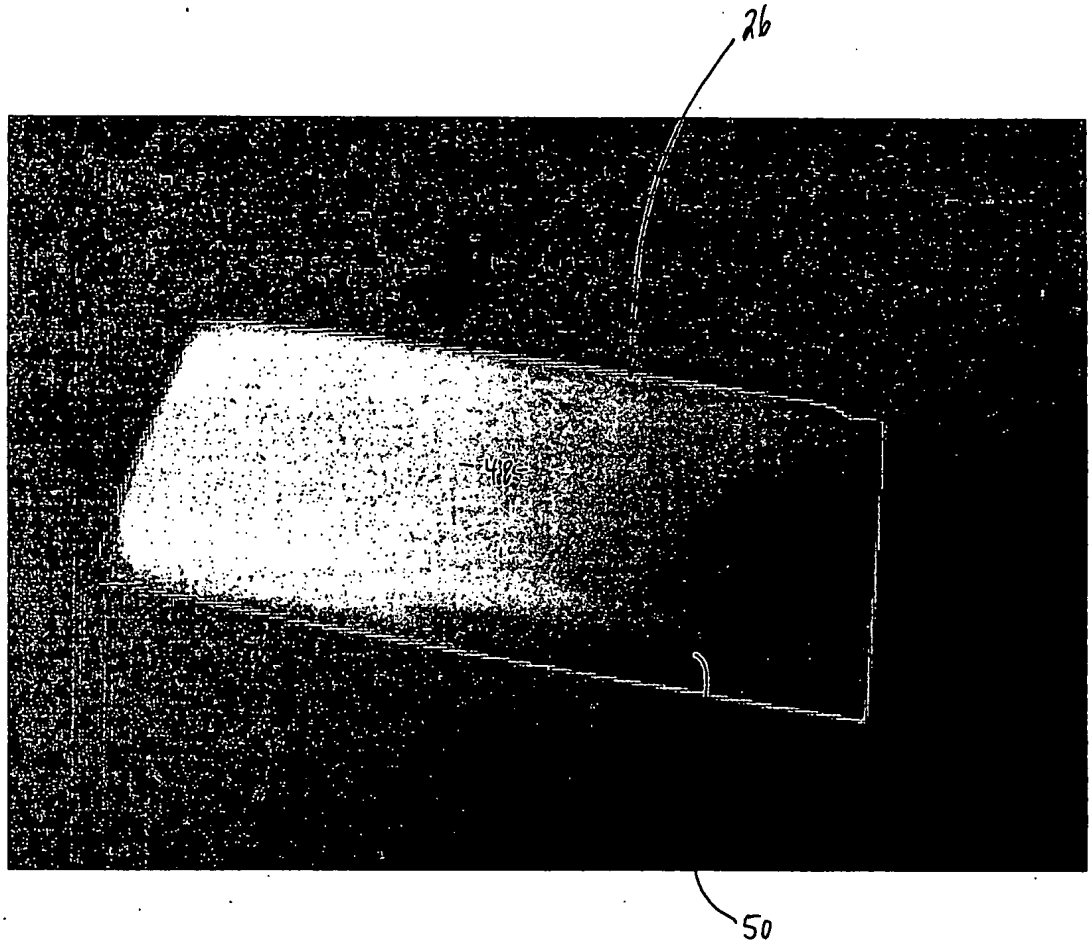

FIG. 19

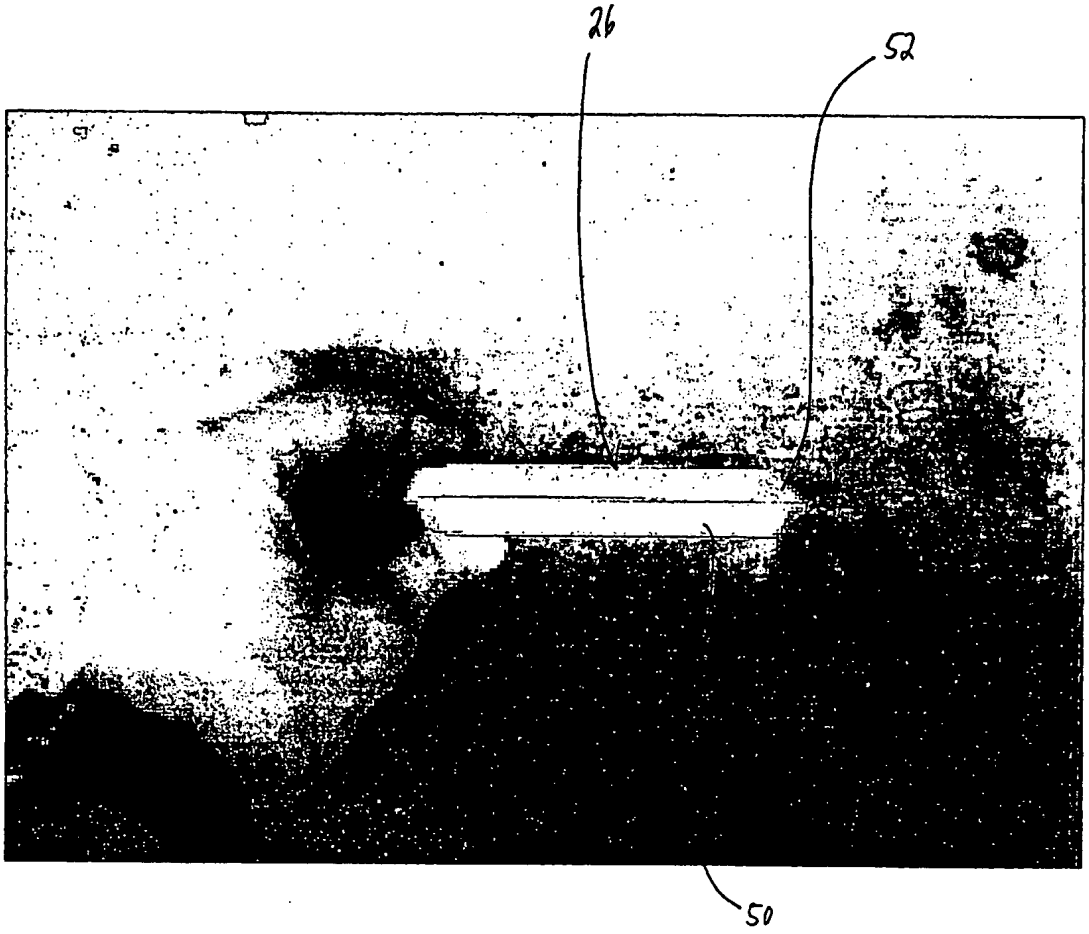

FIG. 20